

SPAWN

Dykes To Watch Out For

for Helen Fontana Bechdel

Acknowledgments

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Featuring our stalwart cultural workers ...



...our dedicated young professionals...



...and our hospitable but hot-blooded housemates.



Spurned for the Moment

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KITH AND KIN

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SHEESH! AS IF HAVING YOUR LOVER SERIOUSLY INJURED IN A CAR CRASH ISN'T AWFUL ENOUGH.

I KNOW. FORCED SEPARATION, EIGHT YEARS OF COURT BATTLES, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN LEGAL FEES! WHAT A NIGHTMARE!

WELL, IT'S OVER NOW.

MAYBE. BUT AT WHAT COST? IT MAKES ME CRAZY!

THE 10th JUDGE
HARENTHOMPSON FINALLY
GRANTED GUARDIANSHIP
OF SHARON KOWALSKI

WHAT DOES?

THE WHOLE @#%!*! PREHISTORIC LEGAL SYSTEM! WHERE DOES THE STATE GET OFF SAYING A MAN AND A WOMAN EQUALS A FAMILY, BUT TWO MEN OR TWO WOMEN IN LOVE DON'T!

IF KOWALSKI AND THOMPSON WERE MARRIED HETS, NONE OF THIS COULDA HAPPENED!

WELL, IT CAN'T HAPPEN TO US EITHER NOW THAT WE DREW UP WILLS AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY AND STUFF.

OH, YOU DON'T THINK SO? OUR PARENTS COULD CONTEST ALL THAT. YOU'RE NOT OUT TO YOURS, AND LAST TIME I CHECKED WITH MINE, I WAS STILL BOUND FOR THE FIERY PIT!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE BABY?! IF WE HAVE A KID AND YOU DIE, YOU THINK YOUR FOLKS ARE GONNA SIT BACK AND LET A QUEER RAISE THEIR GRANDCHILD WITHOUT A FIGHT?

DO YOU REALIZE THAT I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY LEGAL RELATIONSHIP TO OUR KID? I CAN'T EVEN ADOPT HER UNLESS YOU GIVE UP YOUR RIGHTS AS MOTHER BECAUSE ADOPTION LAWS ALLOW FOR ONLY ONE PARENT OF EACH SEX, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'M A "BIOLOGICAL STRANGER!" I'M "UNNATURAL!" I'M A "THREAT TO TRADITIONAL FAMILY VALUES!"

CLARICE! WE KNOW WE'RE A REAL FAMILY. THAT'S WHAT MATTERS! WHY GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT SOCIETAL APPROVAL?

HUH. MAYBE YOU HAVE A POINT. FAT LOT OF GOOD IT'S DONE "TRADITIONAL" FAMILIES ANYWAY. NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF 'EM ARE DYSFUNCTIONAL.

OH, COME ON. ISN'T THAT A SLIGHT EXAGGERATION?

OKAY. A HUNDRED PERCENT.

DAMN STRAIGHT.

Good House-keeping

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OUR COMBUSTIBLE COHABITANTS HAVE CONVENED FOR THAT LOATHESOME BUT UNAVOIDABLE PHENOMENON, THE HOUSE MEETING!

DRIFTS OF DOG HAIR. SLIME IN THE BATHROOM SINK. FOUR MONTHS OF NEWSPAPERS STACKED IN THE KITCHEN. AND THE REFRIGERATOR! I'M AFRAID TO GO NEAR IT WITHOUT PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND A GAS MASK!

LOOK, WE CAN THINK OF IT AS A RITUAL OF RENEWAL! WE'LL ALL SPEND A DAY TOGETHER, THROWING OUT THE OLD, CLEANSING AND PURIFYING TO MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW! IT'LL BE SO GROWTHFUL!

SPARROW, SPARROW, SPARROW. WE'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT TALKING ABOUT HOUSECLEANING HERE, WE'RE TALKING PRIORITIES. A CLEAN SINK MAY BE IMPORTANT TO YOU, BUT I HAVE MORE RELEVANT GOALS IN MY LIFE.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE SELFISH TO EXPECT ME TO TAKE TIME OUT FROM MY VALUABLE POLITICAL WORK, WHICH BENEFITS THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, JUST SO YOU CAN HAVE SPARKLING BATHROOM FIXTURES?

VALUABLE POLITICAL WORK?!

YEAH, RIGHT. THAT WAS PROBABLY GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING GOING ON IN HER BEDROOM LAST NIGHT.

LISTEN. THE WAY I SEE IT, THE REAL ISSUE HERE IS OUR CLASS DIFFERENCES. LOIS, YOU COME FROM AN AFFLUENT SUBURBAN FAMILY. YOU GREW UP TAKING A NICE HOUSE FOR GRANTED...

YOU NEVER FELT ASHAMED OF YOUR PARENTS' UGLY USED FURNITURE. YOU NEVER SPENT THE FIRST MONEY YOU EVER EARNED ON A PAISLEY BEAN BAG CHAIR, SO YOUR FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM WOULD LOOK MORE LIKE THE ONES ON TV!

VERY TOUCHING, GINGER. BUT IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE AS BIG A SLOB AS SHE IS.

HEY! I'M WORKING LIKE A DOG TO PUT MYSELF THROUGH A PH.D. PROGRAM! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THE SHINE ON OUR LINOLEUM!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD DISCUSS THIS CLEANLINESS COMPULSION WITH YOUR ADULT CHILDREN'S GROUP, SPARROW.

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST NEVER REVEAL THE WHEREABOUTS OF A PARTICULAR BLACK LEATHER JACKET AND A CERTAIN OVER-STUFFED MAUVE ENVELOPE THAT ARRIVED IN THE MAIL THIS MORNING ADDRESSED TO GINGER "ANGEL LIPS" JORDAN.

THIS PLACE IS A TOTAL STY!

LIKE I ALWAYS SAY, YOU CAN'T BEAT VACUUMING FOR GROWTHFULNESS.

Thanks FOR THE MAMMARIES

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SHE DROVE A '64 FORD WITH A LUGGAGE RACK ON THE TOP... AND ALL THE GIRLS SCREAMED WHEN SHE DROVE AROUND THE BLOCK...

MO, YOU'VE BEEN IN THERE FOR 20 MINUTES! COME ON! I HAVE TO GET TO WORK!

WAIT A SEC. I'M DOING MY MONTHLY BREAST SELF-EXAM.

WE'RE RUNNING LATE ON A MONDAY MORNING AND YOU DECIDE TO EXAMINE YOUR BREASTS.

I HAVE TO DO IT WHEN I THINK OF IT OR ELSE I FORGET. YOU SHOULD CHECK YOURSELF WHILE YOU WAIT.

IF YOU'D HURRY UP, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WAIT.

I'M SERIOUS, HARRIET! YOU'RE IN A HIGH-RISK GROUP! BOTH YOUR GRANDMOTHERS DIED OF BREAST CANCER! IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO REGULAR SELF-EXAMS!

I KNOW. I'M IN DENIAL. BUT I HATE DOING THE EXAM BECAUSE MY BREASTS ALWAYS FEEL LUMPY. I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S NORMAL AND WHAT'S NOT.

THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO DO IT EVERY MONTH. SO YOU GET TO KNOW HOW YOU USUALLY FEEL.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. NOW WILL YOU GET OUTTA THERE?

A ONE IN NINE CHANCE, HARRIET! THOSE ARE THE ODDS! AND THE RATE IS INCREASING 3% A YEAR!

OKAY! I KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT. I PROMISE, I'LL EXAMINE MY BREASTS.

I GUESS IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO. I MEAN, I AM KINDA ATTACHED TO THEM.

ME TOO.

HARRIET, WHAT IF ONE DAY I GOT CANCER AND HAD TO GET MY BREASTS REMOVED. WOULD YOU LOVE ME AS MUCH?

NO. I'D LOVE YOU MORE. YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T TAKE SO GODDAMN LONG IN THE SHOWER.

BODY and SOUL

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IS IT THE RECESSION, OR JUST ANOTHER SLOW DAY AT MADWIMMIN BOOKS?

OOH! THIS BURNS ME UP! HAVEN'T WE GOTTEN ANYWHERE IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS?!

NOW WHAT?

LOOKIT!

HUH! NOT ON THIS VOLUPTUOUS VESSEL O' VENUS IT AIN'T.

IT'S A PLOT! WHAT'LL IT BE NEXT? "FABULOUS FOOTBINDING?!" "CAPTIVATING CLITORIDECTOMIES?!"

WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? IT WORKS. TEACHING WOMEN TO HATE THEIR BODIES IS A GREAT WAY TO DISTRACT US FROM GOING ON PATRIARCHY-SMASHING RAMPAGES. GIRLS ARE STARTING TO DIET IN FOURTH GRADE.

AND HOW 'BOUT THOSE PLASTIC SURGEONS? SINCE SMALL BREASTS ARE "DEFORMITIES," THEY'VE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO INFLATE THE SELF-ESTEEM OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WOMEN WITH UNTESTED FURNITURE UPHOLSTERY FOAM!

DIDJA KNOW THOSE BREAST IMPLANTS DEADEN SENSATION IN THE NIPPLE? WOMEN ARE SACRIFICING THEIR SEXUAL PLEASURE FOR A SOCIETALLY APPROVED BRA SIZE!

WELL, IT'S ALL IN GOOD FUN. THOSE MEN DOCTORS LOVE TO CUT A GAL UP.

TELL ME ABOUT IT. I REMEMBER WHEN I SLEPT WITH MEN, BIRTH CONTROL WAS SUCH A MESS. HORMONES WITH SIDE EFFECTS, INFECTION-CAUSING DEVICES, SPERMICIDAL CHEMICALS...

NOW I FIND OUT THAT MALE BIRTH CONTROL IS A HUNDRED TIMES SIMPLER. BESIDES CONDOMS AND VASECTOMIES, A GUY CAN SIMPLY TAKE REGULAR HOT BATHS OR WEAR SNUG UNDERWEAR!

AND TAMPER WITH HIS MANLY BODILY FUNCTIONS? GOD FORBID!

I JUST READ ABOUT A NEW FEMALE CONDOM WOMEN CAN WEAR. IT'S MORE COMPLICATED AND EXPENSIVE, OF COURSE, BUT NOW A WOMAN DOESN'T HAVE TO RISK THE GUY'S WRATH BY ASKING HIM TO WEAR ONE.

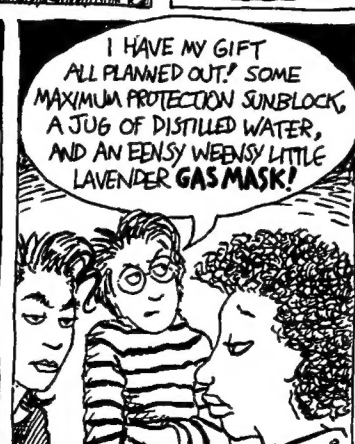
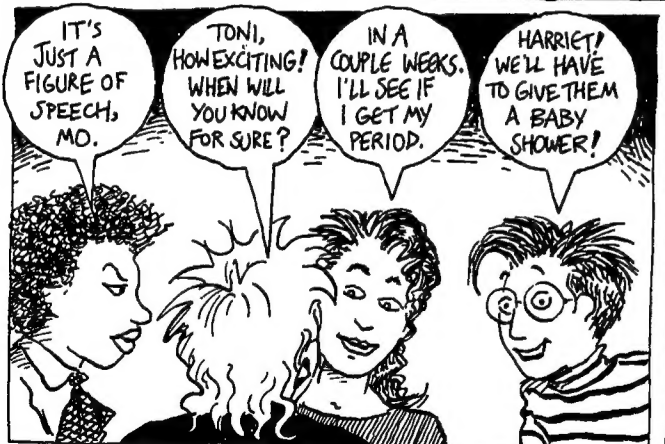
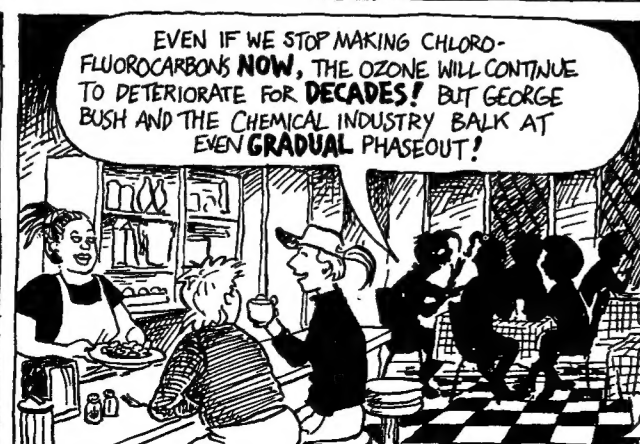
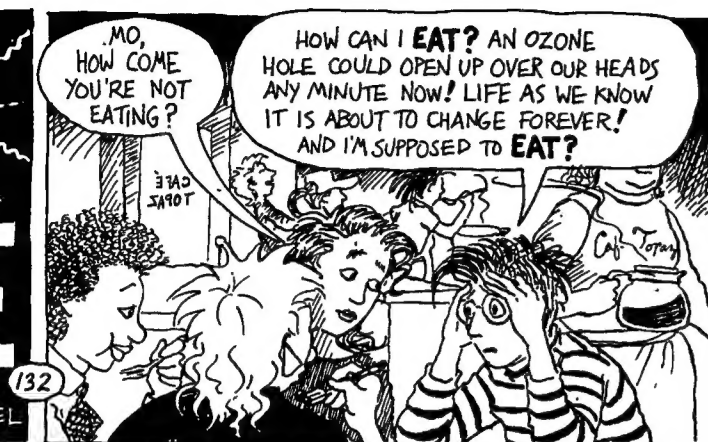
ALTHOUGH IF THE SUPREME COURT HAS ITS WAY, SHE MIGHT HAVE TO ASK HIS PERMISSION TO GET AN ABORTION.

SHALL WE CONTINUE?

SHE'S GONNA GET INK ALL OVER HER TEETH AGAIN.

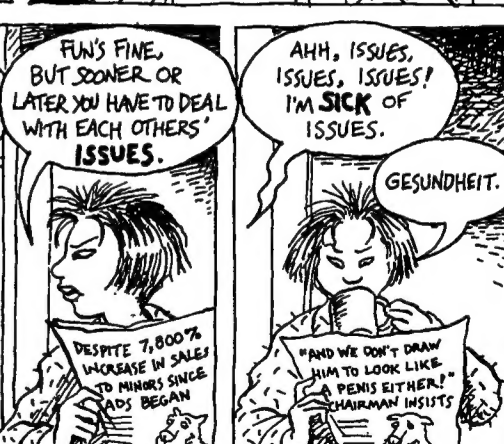
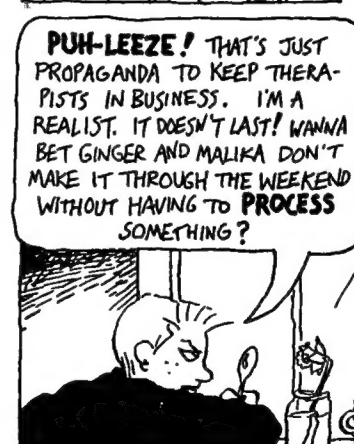
MO ZONE

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SPRING FEVER

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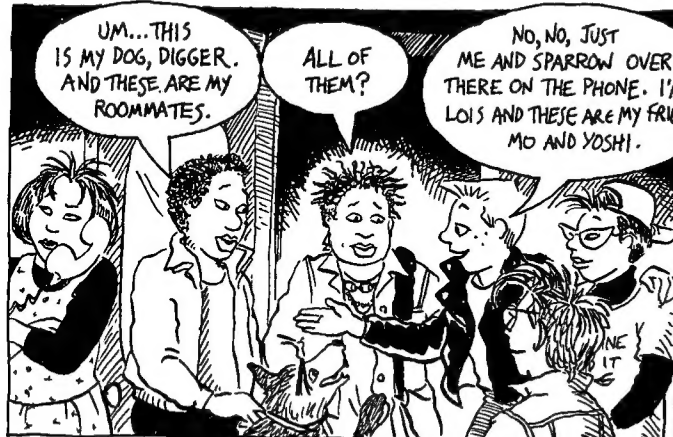


Alone at Last!

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GINGER ANXIOUSLY AWAITS THE ARRIVAL OF HER AIRBORNE AMOROSA!



THE FUNDAMENTAL THINGS APPLY...

As Time Goes By...

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FINALLY FACE TO FACE WITH HER PASSIONATE PEN PAL, GINGER CHOKES!

6:05

SO, HERE'S OUR OPTIONS FOR TONIGHT. WE'LL GO HAVE DINNER FOR STARTERS, THEN SEE A MOVIE - HERE'S THE LISTINGS - OR THERE'S AN AFRICAN DANCE TROUPE IN TOWN, OR WE COULD GO TO THIS PLAY AT THE UNIVERSITY. THEN AFTER THAT WE CAN GO OUT DANCING, OR ELSE TO A PARTY SOME FRIENDS ARE HAVING. WHATEVER YOU PREFER.



VIDEO
DISPLAY

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MALIKA'S
VISIT
IS
COMING
TO
AN
EXCITING
ANTICLIMAX!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T
HAVE ORGASMS WITH A PARTNER?
MAYBE ALL YOUR OTHER PARTNERS
WERE JUST BAD LOVERS!
LEMME TRY AGAIN!

WHOA, BABE. RELAX. I'D BE VERY HAPPY
TO MAKE LOVE SOME MORE, BUT NOT JUST SO
YOU CAN "GIVE" ME AN ORGASM. I WISH
EVERYONE DIDN'T MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL
OUT OF A FEW MUSCULAR CONTRACTIONS.

WELL, UH...
D'YOU WANNA MAKE
YOURSELF
COME?

GINGER, IF THAT'S ALL
I WANTED, I COULDA SAVED
A COUPLA HUNDRED BUCKS AND
STAYED IN SAN FRANCISCO. LOOK,
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, OKAY?

OKAY, OKAY. NO
PRESSURE. COME BACK TO
BED AND I PROMISE I WON'T
TRY TO MAKE YOU HAVE AN
ORGASM. DEAL?

DEAL.

OH! WAIT
A SECOND! I
BROUGHT SOME-
THING!

UH-OH. SOME
KIND OF WILD SEX
TOY FROM THE BIG
BAD CITY?

YOU COULD
CALL IT THAT. I WANTED
TO HAVE SOMETHING TO
REMEMBER YOU BY.
I'LL SEND YOU A
COPY.

MEANWHILE... MO & HARRIET ARE EXPERIENCING
TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES OF THEIR OWN.

BUT YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
ASK ME!

I KNEW YOU'D JUST TRY
TO GUILT-TRIP ME! BESIDES, IT'S
MY MONEY AND I'VE WANTED A
VCR FOR A LONG TIME.

WHAT'S THE BIG
DEAL? YOU'RE ALWAYS WATCHING
MOVIES OVER ON LOIS & GINGER'S!
ISN'T IT A LITTLE HYPOCRITICAL TO
ACT LIKE YOU'RE TOO PURE TO
HAVE ONE YOURSELF?

NO! SHARING THINGS WITH
FRIENDS IS A GOOD WAY TO REDUCE
THE RAMPANT JUNK PRODUCTION AND
MINDLESS CONSUMERISM THAT'S
KILLING OUR PLANET!

LOOK,
I JUST WANNA
FUCKING TAPE "ALL
MY CHILDREN."

RIGHT. NEXT YOU'LL NEED A
BIGGER TV, THEN AN "ENTERTAINMENT
CENTER" TO PUT IT IN AND A RECLINER
TO WATCH IT FROM... THEN CABLE!
IT'S AN ADDICTIVE SPIRAL! THE MORE
YOU BUY, THE MORE YOU NEED! IT'S
BETTER TO QUIT NOW, HARRIET!

OKAY, FINE.
I'M MOVING OUT.

Breaking
Down is
Hard
To Do

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SO HARRIET'S
MOVING OUT. MY LIFE
IS A MESS.

AND WHY
SHOULDN'T IT BE?
WHY SHOULD MY PERSONAL
LIFE GO SMOOTHLY IN
SUCH A VIOLENT, EVIL
WORLD?

I CAN'T
BELIEVE THOSE COPS
GOT ACQUITTED
IN L.A.!

HOW COULD THE NON-BLACK JURY SAY THEIR
DECISION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FACT
THAT RODNEY KING IS BLACK? I'M SO SICK OF
WHITE PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY'RE NOT RACIST
JUST BECAUSE THEY WATCH THE COSBY SHOW!

THIS COUNTRY IS
BUILT ON RACISM, AND
THE SOONER WE ALL ADMIT
IT, THE SOONER WE CAN
START FIXING IT.

SO WHAT
DOES GEORGE BUSH DO?
BLAMES THE RIOTS ON "LIBERAL
PROGRAMS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S"
THEN JETS IN FOR
A PHOTO OP!

JEEZIZ,
IT'S JUST ALL
SO HORRIBLE.

WHY ARE
PEOPLE SO MEAN?
WHY DO THEY HURT
EACH OTHER?

OH, I FEEL
GREAT, ANYA! THE
WORLD'S STILL FUCKED UP, MY
GIRLFRIEND'S STILL LEAVING ME...
BUT NOW I HAVE A SPLITTING
HEADACHE TO TAKE MY
MIND OFF IT.

SOB!
CLIXE

IT'S OKAY,
MO. LET IT
COME

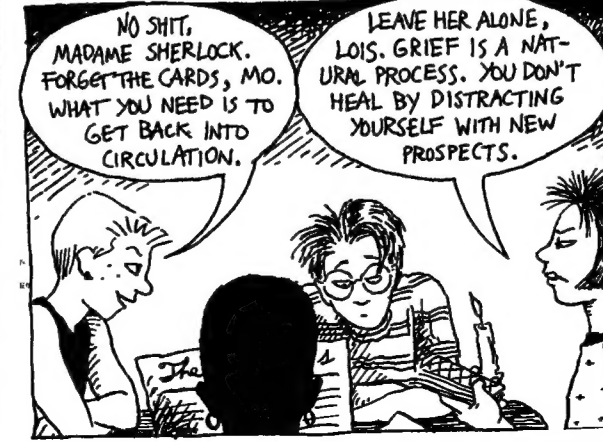
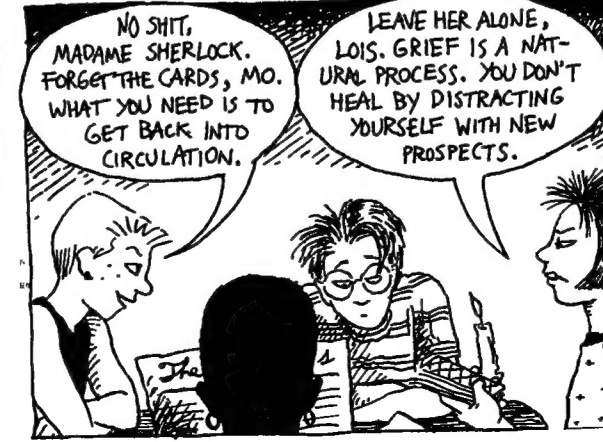
TEN MINUTES LATER...

HONK!
I GUESS I CAN'T
BLAME THAT ON
HAYFEVER.

HA! NO,
NOT QUITE! HOW DO
YOU FEEL? YOU'VE NEVER
REALLY LET YOURSELF
CRY WITH ME
BEFORE.

stunned

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LAST TANGO

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HARRIET BEDS DOWN ON THE COUCH FOR HER FINAL NIGHT AT THE APARTMENT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE JUST LEAVING. I MEAN, SHOULDN'T WE PROCESS THIS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS? AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO PAY LOTS OF MONEY TO A THERAPIST BEFORE WE BREAK UP?

IT'S TOO LATE, MO. I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET THINGS SLIDE FOR SO LONG, BUT THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO PROCESS.

JUST LIKE THAT, BANG! YOU DON'T LOVE ME ANY MORE. IT'S OVER.

LISTEN, I FEEL AWFUL TOO! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M LEAVING THE PERSON I'M CLOSEST TO IN THE WHOLE WORLD!

SO DON'T! UNPACK YOUR VCR AND STAY!

I KNOW. YOU CAN'T.

SOB!

DON'T CRY, SWEETHEART!

BWAA HAA HAA!

IT'S OKAY, DON'T WORRY.

SNK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M NEVER GOING TO MAKE LOVE TO YOU AGAIN.

I KNOW. JEEZ, IF I'D KNOWN THAT TIME ON THE COUCH AFTER ROSEANNE WAS GONNA BE OUR LAST, I WOULD'A LIT SOME CANDLES OR SOMETHING.

AT LEAST WE COULD'VE TAKEN ALL OUR CLOTHES OFF.

MMMF! Plurp! PAWT

TOO YANK! fumble

I SWEEP AWAY ON A RELENTLESS TIDE OF BODILY FLUIDS, OUR DISCONSOLATE HEROINES BID THEIR ULTIMATE ADIEUS!

MATER-NAL-IN-STINCT

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At a hastily-planned pro-choice rally somewhere downtown...

...WOMEN ARE NOT BABY FACTORIES FOR THE STATE! WE MUST CONTROL OUR REPRODUCTIVE LIVES!

ALL WE ARE SAY-ING IS GIVE LIFE A CHANCE

STOP ABORTION NOW

ABORTION LEGAL

TONI, CLARICE!

AGAINST ABORTION

HI, SPARROW.

KEEP YOUR ROSARIES OFF MY OVARIES!

HEY GINGER, LOIS!

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU TWO AROUND LATELY. HOW'S THINGS IN BABYLAND?

EXPENSIVE.

WE'VE BEEN INSEMINATING FOR FOUR MONTHS NOW WITH NO LUCK.

MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL GET TOGETHER AND HAVE SOME KIND OF FERTILITY RITE NEXT TIME YOU TRY!

D'YOU MAKE LOVE WHEN YOU DO IT? I HEARD IT HELPS IF YOU HAVE AN ORGASM.

HOW LONG WILL YOU KEEP TRYING? I MEAN, MAYBE YOU'RE NOT MEANT TO HAVE A BABY.

OH, GIVE US A BREAK! IS THAT WHAT YOU'D SAY TO A STRAIGHT COUPLE AFTER FOUR MONTHS?

WOULD YOU QUIZ THEM ON THEIR SEX LIFE, AND OFFER TO COME BY WITH INCENSE AND CRYSTALS?!

BUT YOU'RE NOT STRAIGHT! YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING REALLY DIFFERENT! WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS, WE'RE INTERESTED!

YO! WHO'S THE BABE OVER THERE WITH HARRIET?

OH, THAT'S ELLEN. SHE'S HEAD OF THE LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON.

HEY, WHERE'S MO? ANYONE SEEN HER LATELY?

SHE'S TAKING THE BREAKUP KIND OF HARD. I CAN'T GET HER TO LEAVE HER HOUSE EXCEPT TO COME TO WORK.

MEANWHILE...

HI, MOM. IT'S ME.

MONICA! DO YOU HAVE A COLD? YOU SOUND FUNNY.

NO, I'M JUST KINDA LOW ENERGY. UH... HARRIET & I BROKE UP. SHE MOVED OUT YESTERDAY.

OH, THAT'S TOO BAD! WILL YOU HAVE TO GET A NEW ROOMMATE? LISTEN, I'M JUST ON MY WAY DOWN TO THE MALL TO STAFF THE PEROT TABLE. I'LL CALL YOU LATER AND TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT, OKAY?

YEAH, OKAY.

emasculate conception

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EMOTIONS ARE TURBULENT AS CLARICE AND TONI BEGIN THEIR FIFTH ROUND OF INSEMINATION.

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I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU STARTED OVULATING A DAY EARLY! FOR THE LAST YEAR YOU'VE BEEN LIKE CLOCKWORK! I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE WE GET A REFUND IF THE SPERM DOESN'T GET HERE IN TIME!

CLARICE, AS LONG AS IT COMES TODAY, WE'LL BE FINE. MY CYCLE IS PROBABLY OFF FROM ALL THE STRESS. AND YOU'RE NOT HELPING BY OBSESSING ABOUT THE MONEY!



I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY I'M NOT THE PERFECT CO-PARENT-TO-BE! ALL THE TIMING AND WAITING AND HOME PREGNANCY TESTS ARE STRESSING ME OUT TOO. AND I CAN'T HELP WORRYING ABOUT THE MONEY AT A HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE BUCKS A POP!



BZZZT!

THAT MUST BE POP NOW.

GREAT! IT'S ONLY SIX O'CLOCK. WE CAN DO IT AND STILL GET TO OUR BABY GROUP ON TIME. YOU GO LIE DOWN. I'LL GET EVERYTHING READY.



SO HOW MANY TIMES IS THIS? YOU TWO MUST BE SHELLING OUT THE DOUGH.

DON'T THEY EVER CHANGE YOUR ROUTE?



IT'S HERE! UNH! I'M GONNA THAW IT OUT!

REMEMBER TO DOUBLE-CHECK THE DONOR NUMBER...



YEOW!

...AND BE CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE CONTAINER WITH YOUR BARE HANDS.



OH, NO! I FORGOT, WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BRING FOOD TO THE GROUP TONIGHT.



SHIT! WELL, WE CAN STOP AND GET SOME KIND OF TAKEOUT. WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY, THOUGH. ARE YOU READY?

OH, CLARICE! I DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE LIKE THIS!



TONI, IT'S NO BIG DEAL! SARAH AND LOUISE BRING TAKEOUT ALL THE TIME!

NO, I MEAN THIS! I WANTED IT TO BE SPECIAL AND ROMANTIC, NOT SOMETHING WE HAVE TO SQUEEZE IN BEFORE RACING OUT OF THE HOUSE!



I KNOW, SWEETHEART. > KISS < BUT CAN WE TALK ABOUT IT LATER? WE'RE LOSING SPERM MOTILITY BY THE SECOND HERE.



SURPRISE SURPRISE

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SPARROW, WHAT'S ON THIS TAPE IN THE VCR?

I DUNNO. IT'S NOT MINE. DOWN, DIGGER.



OH MY GOD! LOOK AT THIS!

REALLY, LOIS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SEE IN THOSE PORN VIDEOS... OH MY GOD! THAT'S... THAT'S...



GINGER! AND MALIKA!



AAUGH!



MEANWHILE, IN CLARICE & TONI'S BATHROOM...

LET'S NOT GET TOO EXCITED. YOUR PERIOD MIGHT JUST BE LATE BECAUSE OF ALL THE STRESS WE'VE BEEN UNDER.

BUT I FEEL DIFFERENT, CLARICE. I THINK THIS MIGHT BE IT!



BUT MAYBE YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS BECAUSE YOU WANT IT SO BAD. DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED IF THE TESTER SHOWS NEGATIVE. WE'LL JUST TRY AGAIN!



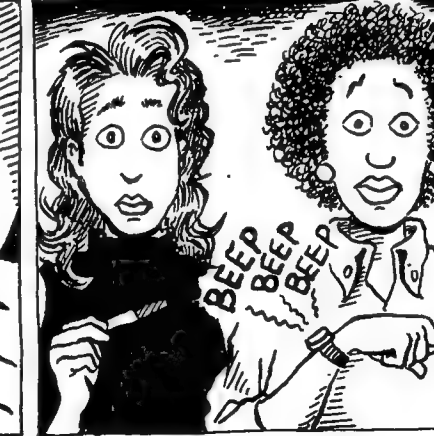
HON, I'M NERVOUS ENOUGH AS IT IS. I CAN'T PEE IF YOU'RE GONNA STAND THERE WATCHING ME LIKE THAT.

OKAY, OKAY. I'LL BE RIGHT OUTSIDE.



THERE. IN FOUR MINUTES, WE'LL KNOW.

I'LL SET MY WRIST ALARM!

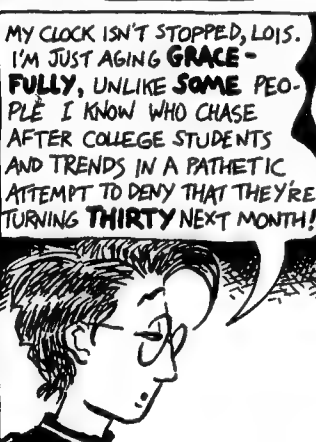
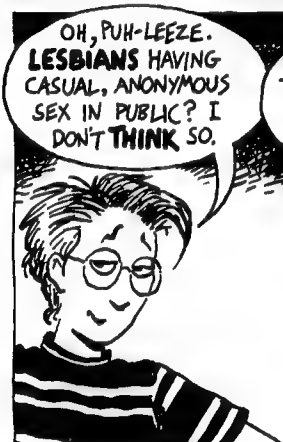
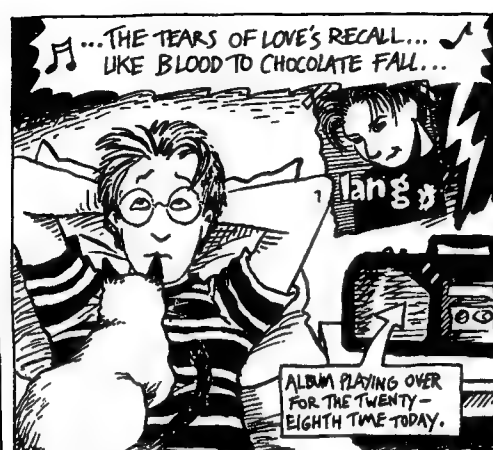


SWEET OF BIRD YOUTH

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Mo is wallowing in her just-dumped status.

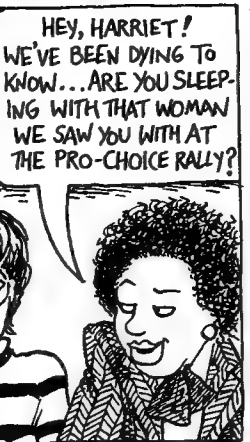
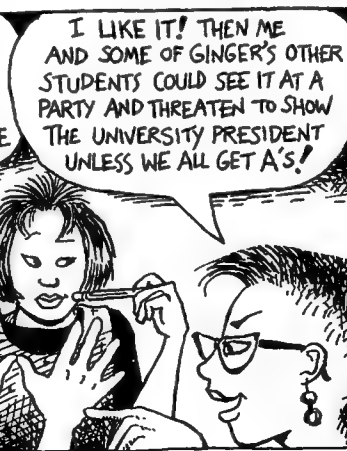


the PLOT thickens

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AN UNUSUAL NEW CONTRACT PROVISION HAS JUST BEEN IMPLEMENTED AT THIS COMIC STRIP. BY THREATENING A WALKOUT, THE RANK AND FILE HAVE GAINED COMPLETE CONTROL OF OUR STORY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION!



policy failure

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HAVING WRESTED PLOT CONTROL FROM THE HANDS OF MANAGEMENT, LOCAL 428 OF THE FEDERATED SISTERHOOD OF LESBIAN COMIC STRIP CHARACTERS IS PUTTING IN OVERTIME TRYING TO REACH CONSENSUS!

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#@*! CONSENSUS! WE'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE AT THIS RATE! LET'S JUST VOTE ON IT!

OKAY, OKAY. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR?

WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT ARE WE VOTING ON?

WHETHER TO MAKE OUR DECISIONS BY MAJORITY VOTE OR CONSENSUS.

BEEP BEEP BEEP!

THANK GODDESS! TIME'S UP, MO. IT'S MY TURN TO FACILITATE. OKAY! FIRST, MAJORITY RULES.

SECOND, I THINK OUR NEXT COUPLE OF EPISODES SHOULD ADDRESS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, AND I'D LIKE TO HEAR IDEAS ON WHAT SPIN WE SHOULD GIVE IT. HARRIET?

HOW ABOUT THE FAMILY VALUES ANGLE? WE COULD CONTRAST ALL THAT REPUBLICAN CHRISTOFASCIST GAY-BASHING WITH A WHOLESOME, TENDER PORTRAIT OF CLARICE AND TONI AT HOME WITH BABY-TO-BE.

SLOORP!

ULP... GAG!

HURRY BACK, HON! DON'T WORRY... JUST A LITTLE MORNING SICKNESS.

HEY, DO WE GET TO ENDORSE A CANDIDATE? JOAN JETT BLACK IS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE DRAG QUEEN ON THE QUEER NATION TICKET.

LISTEN, FORGET THE ELECTION! WE GOT A SERIOUS PRODUCTION BACKLOG HERE, AND WE'VE ALREADY WASTED TWO EPISODES ON THIS DAMN MEETING! LOOK AT OUR AGENDA! TONI HAS TO COME OUT TO HER FOLKS BEFORE SHE HAS THE KID, WE NEED TO EXPLORE LOIS'S DENIAL ABOUT TURNING THIRTY...

TWENTY NINE! WHAT IS WITH YOU PEOPLE?

...WE'RE WAY OVERDUE FOR SEARCHING CRITIQUES ON BISEXUALITY, LESBIANS IN THE MILITARY, FEMALE EJACULATION...

BEEP BEEP BEEP!

TONI! JUST IN TIME! YOU'RE UP TO FACILITATE.

ANYBODY WANT THE REST OF MY PRUNE YOGURT?

MMF!

EXCUSE ME, BUT THE GROSSE POINTE GAYZETTE AND THE TOPEKA LESBIAN TRIBUNE HAVE JUST CALLED TO THREATEN CANCELLATION UNLESS WE PROCEED WITH OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM PRONTO!

I TOLD YOU THIS WAS NEVER GONNA WORK.

TIME & TIDE

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AFTER THEIR FAILED COUP IN THE STORY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF THIS COMIC STRIP, OUR CHARACTERS DUTIFULLY RESUME THEIR TALE.

ONE MORNING BEFORE MADWIMMIN BOOKS OPENS ITS DOORS...

WELCOME TO THE OVER 30'S CLUB, LOIS.

THERE'S NO MORE DENYING IT, LOIS. I HAD GINGER CHECK YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE.

OH, VERY CLEVER, J. EDGAR.

CHEER UP, LOIS. YOU HAVEN'T EVEN HIT YOUR SEXUAL PEAK YET.

THERE'S THAT.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT'S UNDERNEATH THIS DREAD OF AGING, LOIS?

YEAH... IT COULD JUST BE PANIC THAT YOUR LIFE IS ALMOST HALF OVER AND YOU HAVEN'T ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING YET! OR PERHAPS IT'S SIMPLY GARDEN-VARIETY TERROR AT YOUR OWN ENCRANCHING DEMISE!

NAH, NONE OF THAT. IT'S... IT'S JUST THAT THINGS ARE CHANGING SO FAST!

ONE DAY DENTAL DAMS ARE DE RIGUEUR. THE NEXT I FIND OUT THEY'RE "SEX NEGATIVE." WHILE I'M TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER TO GET MY NOSE PIERCED, PUTTING RINGS THROUGH YOUR LABIA BECOMES THE THING TO DO. I TELL YA, I CAN'T KEEP UP ANY MORE!

I KNOW THAT FEELING. WHEN I OPENED THIS STORE 15 YEARS AGO, I CARRIED THREE DOZEN LESBIAN TITLES. NOW WE HAVE NEARLY A THOUSAND. THERE'S BARELY TIME TO ORDER 'EM, LET ALONE READ ANYTHING. YEAH... I USED TO FEEL LIKE I WAS RIDING THE WAVE... BUT NOW I'M JUST FLOUNDERING IN THE SURF.

SOME DAYS I GET SO FRIED FROM TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THE NEW MAGAZINES AND MUSIC AND VIDEOS AND CATALOGS WE GET HERE, I JUST WANNA GO HOME AND WATCH STRAIGHT PEOPLE ON TV. BUT NOOO! THERE'S FAGS & DYKES ON ALL THE TALKSHOWS AND HALF THE SIT-COMS!

CBS INTERVIEWING QUEER CORPS, ABC INVESTIGATING 'LESBIAN VISIBILITY'...

JEEZ, WE'RE VISIBLE NOW?

WELL, THAT IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR. BUT I KIND OF MISS THE DAYS WHEN OUR CULTURE WAS SMALL AND MANAGEABLE AND WE HAD IT ALL TO OURSELVES.

YEAH. NOW IT'S LIKE A BIG, OBSTREPEROUS TEENAGER MAKING A NUISANCE DOWN AT THE MALL.

MAYBE I'LL GET MY NAVEL PIERCED.

the virus

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OUR HEARTBROKEN HEROINE IS HAVING A HARD TIME BOUNCING BACK TO HER USUAL PERKY SELF.

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LOOK AD BE... SNIFF < WHAD A BESS! I'B DEVER GOIG TO GET ADUTHER GIRLFRED.



SNIFF

MEEOW!

MRRRAOWL

JEZADDA, I CAD CUB TO WORK TODAY. I CAD EVED BREEDTH.

WHAT? YOU CAN'T BREED? THANK THE GODDESS! THAT'D BE ALL WE NEED, HORDES OF WHINING MO-SPAWN UNLEASHED UPON SOCIETY.

VERY FUDDY. COULD YOU PLEASE ASK LOIS TO BRIG SUB CAT FOOD OVER HERE OD HER LUTCH BREAK? I'B TOO SICK TO GO OUT.

SURE. YOU JUST TAKE IT EASY. TRY EATING SOME RAW GARLIC. THAT'LL FIX WHAT AILS YOU.



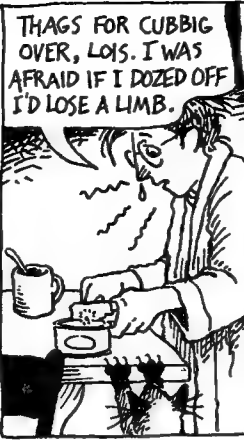
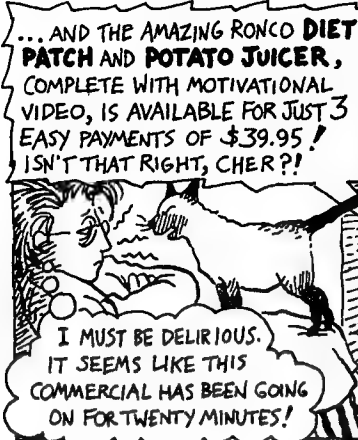
... AND THE AMAZING RONCO DIET PATCH AND POTATO JUICER, COMPLETE WITH MOTIVATIONAL VIDEO, IS AVAILABLE FOR JUST 3 EASY PAYMENTS OF \$39.95! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, CHER?!

IT SURE IS! AND LET ME TELL YOU, THIS PRODUCT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE! MY INCOME HAS **TRIPLED** SINCE I SIGNED UP FOR THIS GIG!

THAT AFTERNOON... GOD, YOU LOOK LIKE SHIT. AND YOU SMELL LIKE A PICKLE FACTORY. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT CONTAGIOUS.

THAGS FOR CUBBIG OVER, LOIS. I WAS AFRAID IF I DOZED OFF I'D LOSE A LIMB.

NO PROBLEM. I HAVE A LITTLE CARE PACKAGE FOR YOU, TOO!



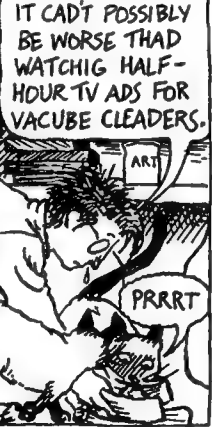
SAMPLINGS FROM MY VIDEO COLLECTION AND SOME CHICKEN SOUP!

THAT'S VERY SWEET, BUT I'B A FUCKIG VEGETARIAD AD I DOTE HAVE A VCR.

OH. WELL THEN HOW ABOUT IF I REGALE YOU WITH TRUE STORIES OF MY NIGHT AT THE **LOVE TUNNEL**? NAMES CHANGED TO PROTECT THE GUILTY, OF COURSE.

IT CAD'T POSSIBLY BE WORSE THAD WATCHIG HALF-HOUR TV ADS FOR VACUBE CLEADERS.

GREAT. MIND IF I HEAT THIS UP FIRST? I'M STARVING.



The SIGHTING

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MO HAS MANAGED TO HEAVE HERSELF FAR ENOUGH FROM THE SLOUGH OF DESPOND TO MAKE IT TO HER WORKSHIFT AT THE CO-OP.

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OKAY, NAOMI... THE DRIED, UNSULPHURED, ORGANIC BURDOCK CHIPS ARE ALL RESTOCKED.

GREAT. NOW DO THE SULPHURED, COMMERCIAL ONES, THEN THE WHEAT-FREE TAMARI-ROASTED TRANSITIONAL PAPAYA SPEARS.



MO! YOU'VE RESURFACED! I THOUGHT WE'D LOST YOU FOR A WHILE THERE. YOU FEELING BETTER ABOUT THE BREAKUP?

NO. I FEEL LIKE SLASHING HARRIET'S TIRES. Y'KNOW, I THINK SHE MIGHT BE SEEING SOMEONE.

REALLY? ARE YOU TWO TALKING?

UH-UH. SHE NEEDS TO HAVE "A PERIOD OF NO CONTACT." HA! I'LL SHOW HER NO CONTACT!

UH... YEAH, WHY?



TAKE IT FROM ONE WHO KNOWS, GINGER, AND END IT NOW BEFORE YOU MAKE EACH OTHER MISERABLE.

OOPS! LOOKS LIKE I'M IN THE GRIMADVICE AISLE... I WAS LOOKING FOR LURID GOSSIP.

HI, CLARICE! DID TONI SEND YOU OUT FOR PICKLES AND ICE CREAM?

I WISH. NO, I'M BUYING ALL THIS HEALTHY SHIT FOR HER NEW... I MEAN, OUR NEW DIET. NO MORE GREASY TAKEOUT BARBECUE TILL THE KID'S WEANED... HEY, HAVE YOU TWO HEARD THE WORD ON NAOMI?

WHAT ABOUT HER?

BOYFRIEND. NO!



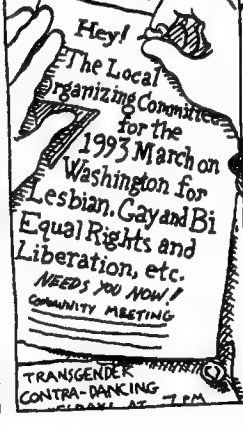
YES! AND AS IF THAT'S NOT BAD ENOUGH, SHE'S STARTING UP A BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP!

OH, COME ON! IS THIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL? SO SHE'S BISEXUAL! BIG DEAL! AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH STARTING A GROUP?

WELL FOR ONE THING, THEY'RE ALWAYS MAKING US CHANGE THE NAMES OF THINGS TO INCLUDE THEM! IT'S... IT'S AWKWARD!

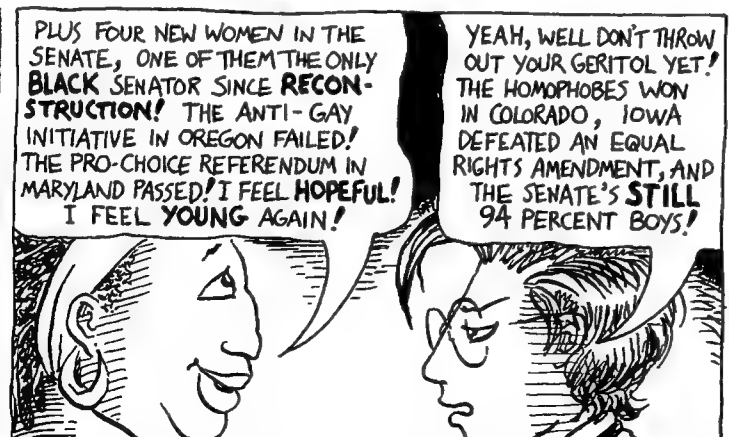
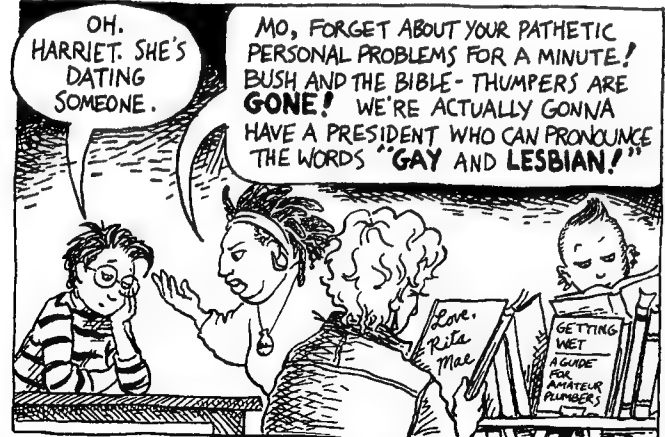
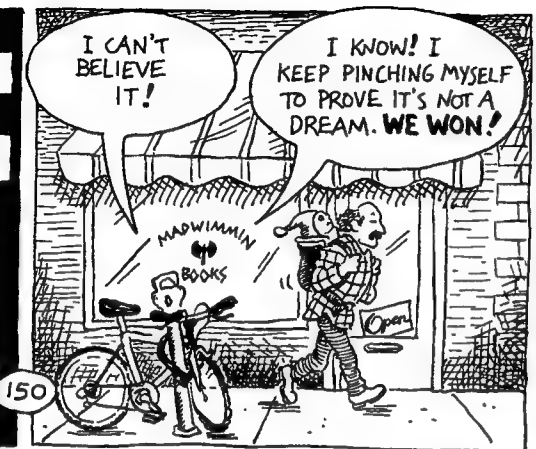
Hey! The Local Organizing Committee for the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, etc. NEEDS YOU NOW! COMMUNITY MEETING

UH-OH. RED ALERT OVER AT THE BULLETIN BOARD. IT'S HARRIET... AND SOMEONE ELSE.



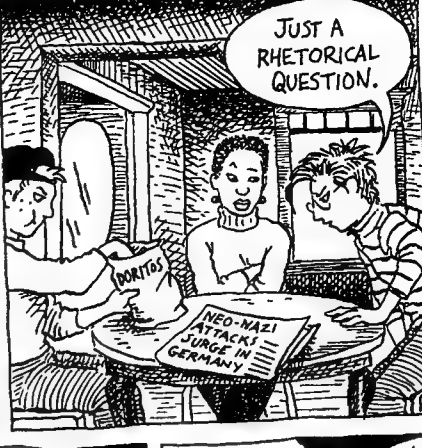
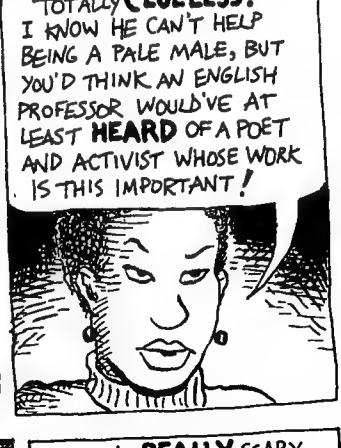
HOPE in HELL

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THE MASTER'S TOOLS

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NOPLACE LIKE HOME

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OUR VALIANT HEROINES HAVE VENTURED FORTH ON HOLIDAY VISITS TO THEIR FAMILIES OF ORIGIN. LET'S JOIN THEM ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

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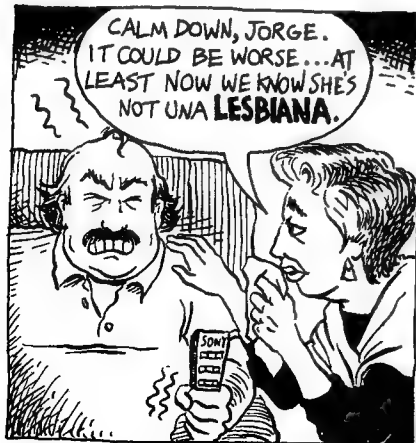
TONI CHOOSES THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE.



EMBARAZADA?? WHO'S THE FATHER??

UH...NO SE.

A LA PUTA! AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS OF SCHOOL, AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE FOR YOU! YOU TURN OUT NO BETTER THAN YOUR COUSIN CARMEN! WHAT WILL WE TELL LA FAMILIA?



CALM DOWN, JORGE. IT COULD BE WORSE...AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW SHE'S NOT UNA LESBIANA.

CLARICE GETS UPSTAGED.



I SWEAR SHE'S TRYING TO KILL ME.

NOW DON'T GET ALL WORKED UP.

MAMA, IT'LL BE A GOOD THING! YOU'LL HAVE A GRANDCHILD!



YOUR ROOMMATE'S ILLEGITIMATE BABY IS NO GRANDCHILD OF MINE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT? TONI AND I LOVE EACH OTHER. WE'RE A FAMILY, AND WE'RE GOING TO RAISE THIS CHILD TOGETHER!



CLARENCE, QUIT EATING AND HELP ME OUT HERE!

SMOK!



IT'S OKAY, MAMA. I'M GAY TOO.

LOIS REMINISCES WITH THE GIRL NEXT DOOR...



LOIS! IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT! BRING MARY JANE UP HERE AND WATCH YOUR FATHER OPEN THE CHAMPAGNE!

WE'RE COMING, MA!

AND MO DISCOVERS JUST HOW ABUSIVE HER FAMILY SYSTEM REALLY IS!



ATTA BABY! RIGHT ON MY HOTEL!

HAH! YOU'RE COMING UP ON MY LITTLE RESORT DEVELOPMENT NEXT! GOOD LUCK!

WAIT! MY THERAPIST HEARS ABOUT THIS.

SAY THE RIGHT THING

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SORRY I'M LATE.

HI, BABE. WE ORDERED ALREADY.

TONI! GOD, YOU'RE LIKE... GROWING!

ONE EVENING AT CAFE TOPAZ...



YEAH, IT'S STARTING TO SHOW. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? THERE'S A BABY IN HERE!

OH MY GOD! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!



IT'S AMAZING!

IT'S HARRIET! AND THAT SHE-DEVIL SHE'S TAKEN UP WITH! HOW DARE THEY COME INTO THIS RESTAURANT?



UH-OH. SHE SEES YOU.

WHAT AM I GONNA DO? I CAN'T EAT WITH THEM HERE!



THEY'RE TURNING AROUND. THEY'RE LEAVING. GOOD MOVE, HARRIET.

YOU CAN LET GO OF MY ARM NOW. AND PUT DOWN THAT FORK



I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! EVERYWHERE I GO, THERE THEY ARE! IF SHE WANTS 'NO CONTACT' WHY'S SHE FOLLOWING ME AROUND?!



WHAT'S THIS NO CONTACT DEAL?

AHH, SHE SAYS SHE HAS TROUBLE KEEPING CLEAR BOUNDARIES WITH ME, SO SHE NEEDS A COUPLE MONTHS WHERE WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER. THEN, SUPPOSEDLY, WE'LL BE ABLE TO BE FRIENDS. AS IF!



WELL, IT IS HARD TO JUST SWITCH GEARS FROM LOVERS TO FRIENDS WITH NO TRANSITION. TAKING A BREAK IS PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA.



THANK YOU, TONI, FOR THAT PEARL OF WISDOM. IT'S JUST WHAT I NEEDED TO HEAR.

BRAISED KOHLRABI AND OKRA GUMBO?

THAT'S FOR TONI.



OH!

WHAT? DON'T TELL ME YOUR NAUSEA IS COMING BACK!



IT MOVED! I FELT IT MOVE, CLARICE! OH MY GOD! THERE REALLY IS A BABY IN HERE!!

EW, WEIRD. KINDA LIKE THAT SCENE IN 'ALIEN,' HUH?

SUGAR & SPICE

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LOIS STOPS IN AT THE HAIR PATROL ON HER LUNCH BREAK.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE SHOP...

WHO WAS THAT? YOUR LOVER?

YEAH. MAXINE. I FORGOT MY LUNCH THIS MORNING.

HUH. ME TOO, BUT NOBODY'S GONNA RUSH OVER AND DELIVER MINE WITH A KISS. MUST BE NICE.

YEAH, I GUESS IT IS.

SPARE ME THE GORY DETAILS. I HEAR ENOUGH ABOUT DOMESTIC BLISS FROM CLARICE & TONI.

WILL THAT BE ALL?

YES.

IT'S GETTING REALLY HARD TO TAKE! THEIR TENTH ANNIVERSARY, THEIR HOTSHOT CAREERS, A BABY COMING. NOW THEY'RE SHOPPING FOR A STATION WAGON.

I DON'T NEED A BAG, THANKS.

THANK YOU.

AND LOOKIT ME! BROKE, JILTED, DUSTING SHELVES ALL DAY AND GOING HOME TO MY CATS AT NIGHT. I'M A TRAGIC FIGURE!

OH, I DUNNO. PATHETIC, MAYBE. D'YOU EVER STOP AND LISTEN TO YOURSELF?

WH-WHADDAYA MEAN?

I MEAN YOU ARE A REAL PILL. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HEARD YOU SAY ANYTHING POSITIVE.

OH, COME ON. I SAY POSITIVE THINGS!

LET'S HEAR ONE.

UM... YOUR HAIR LOOKS NICE LIKE THAT.

OH MY GOD!

TA DA! WHAT DO YOU THINK? IT'S THE FIRST "PEROT" IN TOWN!

UM... YOUR HAIR LOOKS NICE LIKE THAT.

OH MY GOD!

UM... YOUR HAIR LOOKS NICE LIKE THAT.

ARE YOU SERIOUS? AFTER YOU'VE GROWN IT ALL OUT SO NICE?

AHH, IT'S ONLY HAIR, MIKO! C'MON, DO ME! JUST LIKE THE PHOTO, OKAY?

HERE YOU GO! GOTTA RUN...

THANKS, HON. SEE YOU TONIGHT.

Cultural Exchange

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THANKS, MO. DON'T WORK TOO HARD.

BYE, NAOMI. SEE YOU AT THE CO-OP.

CAN YOU BELIEVE SHE'S SLEEPING WITH A MAN? I KNOW IT'S UNCOOL OF ME, BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING... I DUNNO... BETRAYED.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. YOU CAN JUST HEAR JERRY FALWELL GLOATING. "SEE? THAT'S ALL THEY REALLY WANT."

AND YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE? IT BUGS ME THAT SHE CAN COME IN HERE AND SOAK UP LESBIAN CULTURE, THEN GO HOME TO HER SAFE, SOCIETALLY APPROVED BOYFRIEND.

AHH, WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF, MO? THERE'S ROOM FOR EVERYBODY! I SAY THE MORE PEOPLE SOAKING UP LESBIAN CULTURE, THE BETTER!

OH, REALLY? LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A CODE BLUE OVER AT THE PERIODICAL RACK.

I'LL HANDLE IT.

CAN I HELP YOU FIND SOMETHING, SIR?

UM... JUST BROWSING.

HMM... I FIND THAT PUBLICATION RATHER TAME MYSELF. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS ONE? THIS MONTH THERE'S A HOT PHOTO SPREAD OF THREE TOTALLY TATTOOED BABES WITH STRAP-ONS DOING AN ARMPIT SHAVING SCENE.

AND IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A REAL THRILL, CHECK OUT THE STORY, "SHE CAME IN WAVES," IN THIS NEW FEMALE EJACULATION ANTHOLOGY!

'SCUSE ME, I THINK I LEFT MY CAR AT A HYDRANT.

NICE WORK.

NOT REALLY. I'M LOSING MY TOUCH.

OH?

LAST WEEK I FLUSTERED A GUY SO BAD HE SPENT SIXTYBUCKS BEFORE HE LEFT.

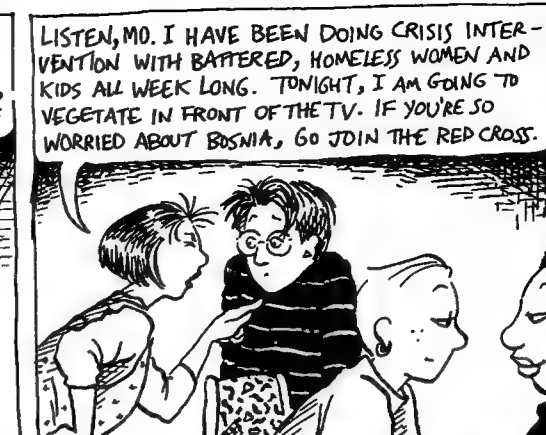
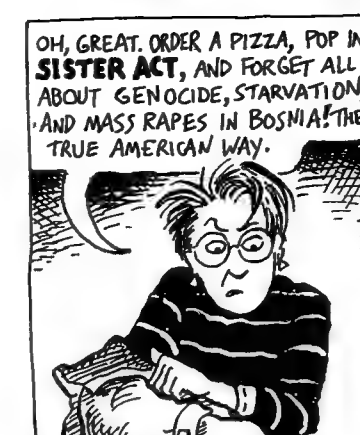
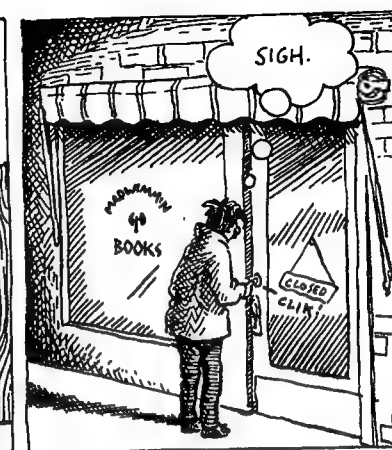
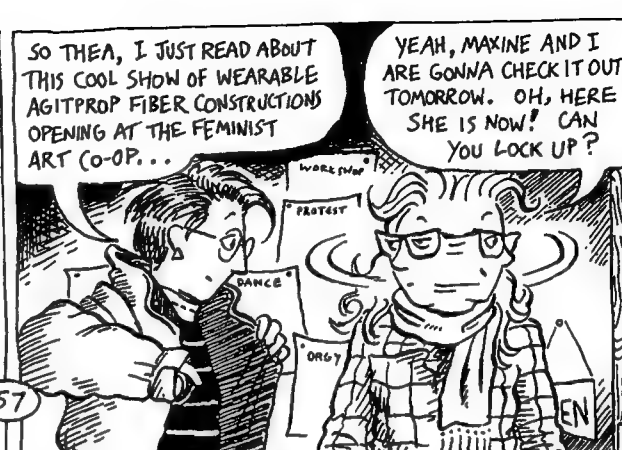
WAGON HO

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Diversions

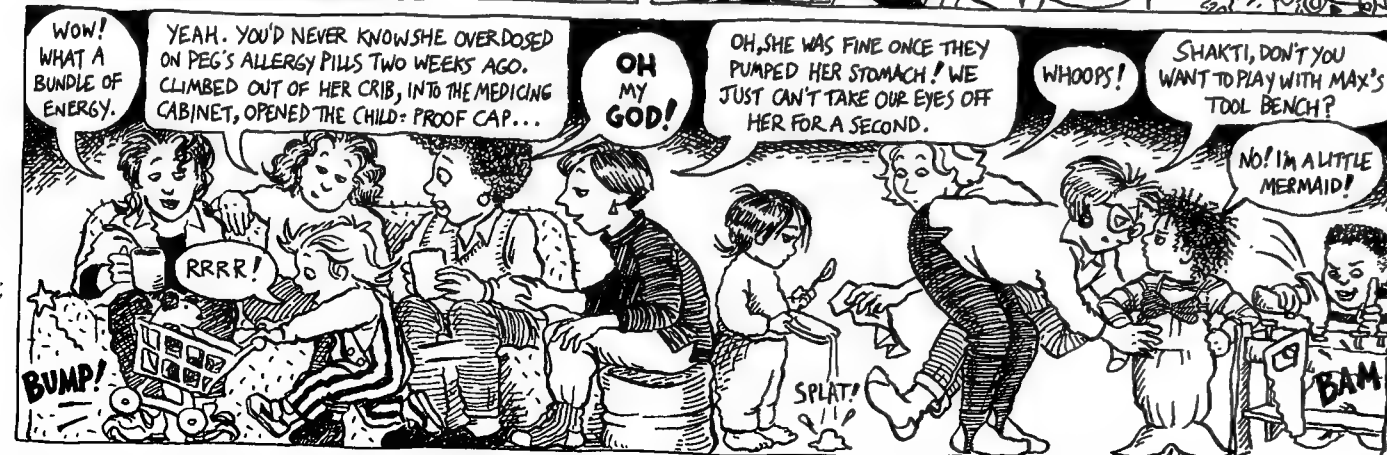
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2 minds

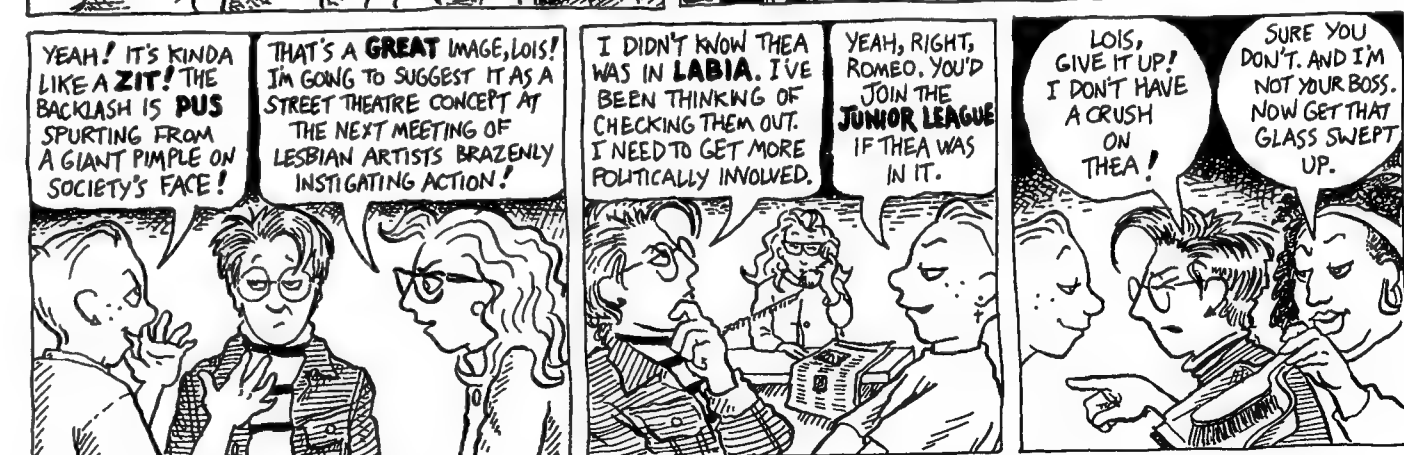
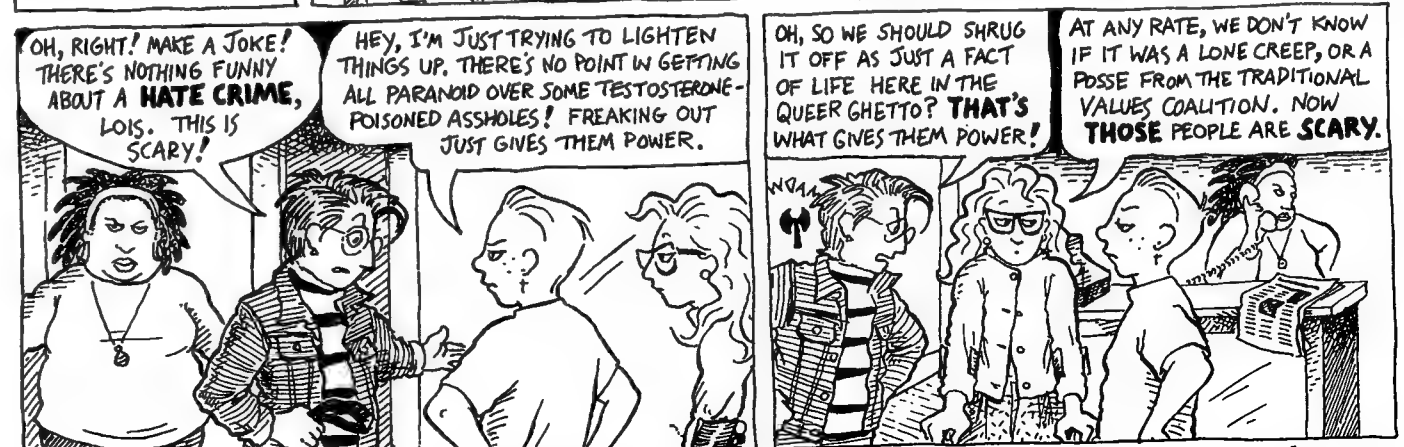
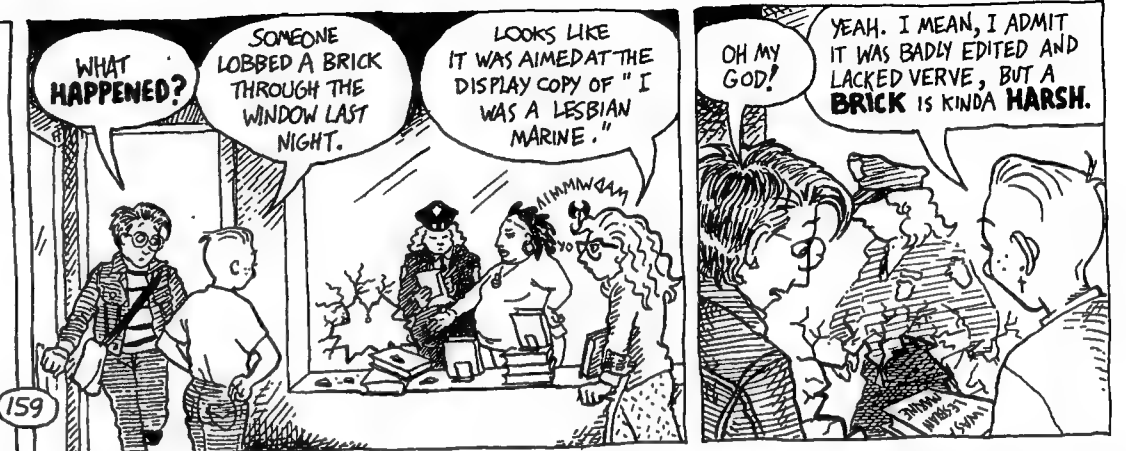
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NO ONE IN CLARICE & TONI'S BABY GROUP HAS HAD AN ACTUAL BABY YET, SO OUR MOTHERS-TO-BE ARE VISITING A MORE ESTABLISHED GATHERING IN SEARCH OF GUIDANCE AND INSPIRATION.



Through a Glass, Hardly

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ONE BIG HAPPY

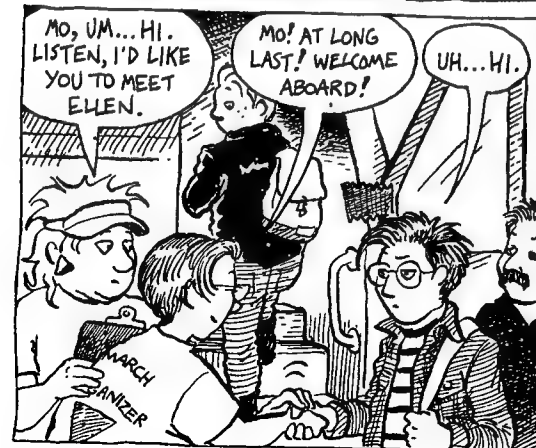
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DUE TO AN INOPPORTUNELY BLOWN OIL PAN GASKET, OUR GALS HAVE FORSAKEN LOIS'S AGED VW FOR A MORE PUBLIC MEANS OF TRANSPORT TO THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON.



GREAT. THIS IS JUST GREAT, LOIS. THANKS TO YOU I'M GONNA BE TRAPPED OVERNIGHT ON A BUS WITH HARRIET AND THAT... THAT WOMAN.

TRY AND RISE ABOVE IT, MO. WE'RE LUCKY THEY HAD SEATS LEFT.



MO, UM... HI. LISTEN, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET ELEN.

MO! AT LONG LAST! WELCOME ABOARD!

UH... HI.



YOU OKAY?

"WELCOME ABOARD." SHEESH! THE NERVE!



HEY, YOU TWO! SIT ACROSS FROM US!

THEA! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE TAKING THE BUS!



YOU KNOW MY LOVER MAXINE.

SURE. GOOD TO SEE YOU.

UH... HI.



I'LL LET YOU HAVE THE AISLE SO YOU CAN FLIRT WITH THEA AFTER OL' MAXINE NODS OFF.



HEY GIRLS, ANYONE SITTING HERE?

NAOMI! NO, I WAS SAVING THESE SEATS ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.

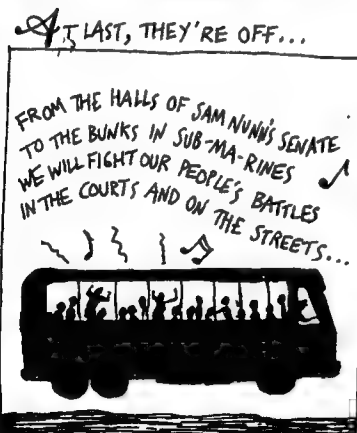


HI!

THIS IS MY LOVER DAVID.

NICE T'MEETCHA, DAVE. RICECAKE?

UH... HI.



AT LAST, THEY'RE OFF...

FROM THE HALLS OF SAM NUNN'S SENATE TO THE BUNKS IN SUB-MARINES WE WILL FIGHT OUR PEOPLE'S BATTLES IN THE COURTS AND ON THE STREETS...



BUT IT'S A LONG, STRANGE TRIP FOR OUR HEROINE.

AFTER-GLOW



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A BUS FULL OF WEARY BUT EXHILARATED MARCHERS WENDS ITS WAY HOMEWARD FROM OUR NATION'S MOMENTARILY QUEER CAPITAL.



SO WHERE'D YOU END UP STAYING, MO?

ON THE FLOOR. WITH EIGHT OTHER PEOPLE AT MY COUSIN'S HOUSE IN THE BURBS. MY NECK IS DISLOCATED AND I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN SIXTY HOURS.



C'MERE. I'LL RUB YOUR NECK TILL MAXINE GETS BACK TO HER SEAT.

JEEZ, MO. WHO'D WANNA COME TO THE BABEFEST OF THE CENTURY AND SLEEP? I'M SO PUMPED ON ADRENALINE I DON'T THINK I'LL COME DOWN TILL NEXT WEEK.



DIDJA MAKE YOUR QUOTA, LOIS?

YUP. KISSED A WOMAN FROM EVERY STATE IN THE UNION. RHODE ISLAND WAS A DRAG QUEEN, THOUGH. DO YOU THINK THAT COUNTS?



A FEW SEATS BACK...

GINGER, WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T LEAVE YOUR HOTEL? NOT EVEN FOR THE RALLY?



HEY, MALIKA AND I HADN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN MONTHS. WE JUST LOST TRACK OF TIME.

WOW. I HOPE SHE GOT SOME OF THAT ON VIDEO.



AND UP FRONT...

YEAH, I'M COMPLETELY WIPED OUT, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT. I'M SO GLAD THE BABY GOT TO PICK UP THAT INCREDIBLE ENERGY.

WHAT ARE YOU TWO GONNA DO WITH YOURSELVES NOW THAT THE MARCH IS OVER?



GOSH, I DUNNO. NO MORE LATE-NIGHT MEETINGS, NO MORE PHONES RINGING OFF THE HOOK, NO MORE FRENZIED LAST-MINUTE ORGANIZING...



WELL, AS SOON AS I GET THREE MONTHS' WORTH OF LAUNDRY DONE, I'M GONNA RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL.



THANKS. THAT WAS GREAT.



LOIS! OMIGOD! YOU WERE RIGHT... I DO HAVE A CRUSH ON THEA! WHAT'M I GONNA DO?!



LEMME SEE... A COLD SPONGE BATH IN THE LAVATORY SOUNDS ABOUT YOUR SPEED.

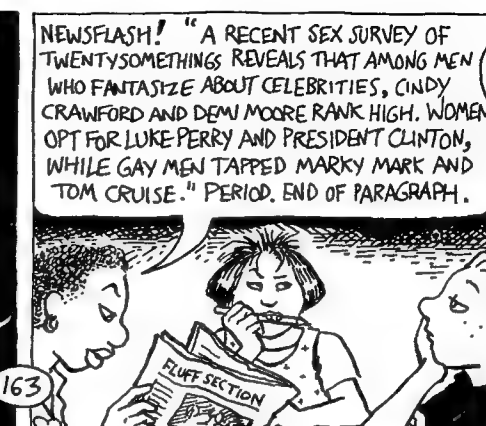
Apple Pie Order

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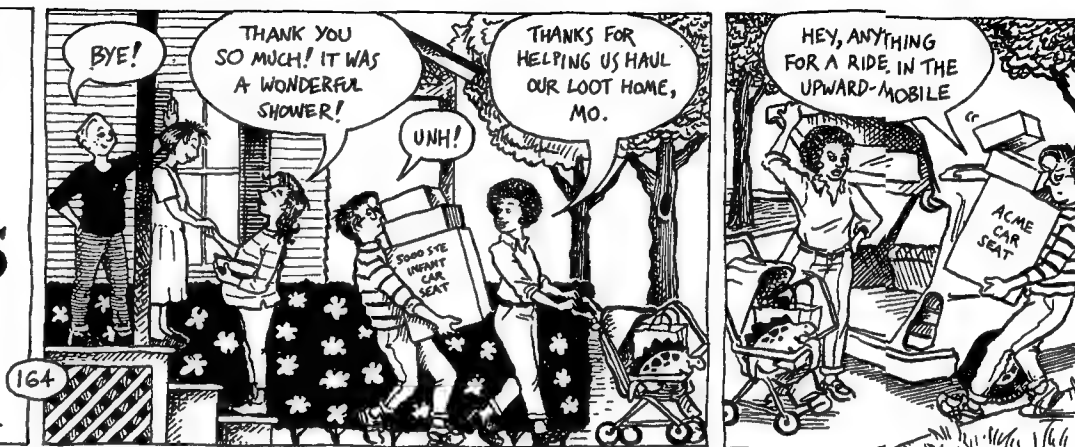
In Their Dreams

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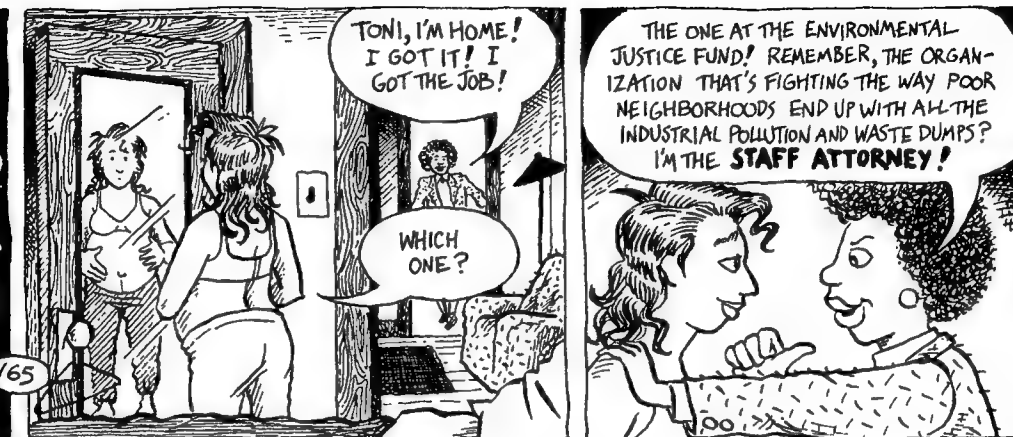
...and baby makes three

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Promises, Promises

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the fairies' midwife

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BABE, LISTEN. I REALLY CAN'T GET AWAY THIS AFTERNOON. DO YOU MIND GOING TO SEE THE MIDWIFE WITHOUT ME, JUST THIS ONCE?



WELL OF COURSE I MIND, CLARICE! BUT IF YOU CAN'T COME, YOU CAN'T COME. I JUST WISH YOU'D GET YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT!



SLAM



LATER, AT THE BIRTH CENTER...

TONI, WHEN YOU'RE DONE WEIGHING YOURSELF AND TESTING YOUR URINE, MIRIAM'S READY TO SEE YOU.



TONI! COME ON IN, HON. YOU LOOK RADIANT! WHERE'S CLARICE?



OH, MIRIAM. SHE'S TOTALLY WRAPPED UP IN THIS NEW JOB! LAST NIGHT SHE MISSED OUR PRENATAL CLASS. I FEEL LIKE SHE'S BACKING OUT ON ME.



HAVE YOU TALKED TO HER ABOUT IT?



YES, BUT SHE SAYS THERE'S NOTHING SHE CAN DO. IT'S A DEMANDING JOB AND SHE JUST NEEDS TO PUT IN A LOT OF TIME RIGHT NOW.



HM. SOUNDS A BIT LIKE MY EX-HUSBAND WHEN I WAS PREGNANT WITH ALEX. YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND GET ON THE TABLE.



WHAT DID YOU DO ABOUT IT?



LEFT HIM AND MOVED INTO A LESBIAN COMMUNE.



MIRIAM! I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE HER! BESIDES, I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE LESBIAN COMMUNES ANYMORE.



OH, DON'T WORRY, DARLIN'. I THINK CLARICE IS THERE FOR YOU. MAYBE SHE'S JUST UNSURE OF HER ROLE. SOMETIMES IT'S HARD FOR THE NONBIOLOGICAL MOM TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE SHE FITS IN.



WE'VE GOT A LOVELY HEARTBEAT HERE. HAS THERE BEEN MUCH MOVEMENT GOING ON?



YES, A LOT! LAST NIGHT IN BED, I WAS HOLDING CLARICE, AND SHE FELT THE BABY KICK HER IN THE BUTT!



MEANWHILE...



OUR COURT DATE IS WHEN?

one sultry summer evening

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BABE, I'M SORRY! I DON'T LIKE WORKING 18 HOURS A DAY. BUT MY FIRST TIME IN COURT IS GONNA BE AGAINST SOME HEAVY CORPORATE LAWYERS!



I KNOW, CLARICE. I JUST WISH YOU WERE AS CONCERNED ABOUT THE BABY AS YOU ARE ABOUT YOUR JOB.



I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE BABY! IF I DON'T WIN THIS INJUNCTION AGAINST THE GARBAGE INCINERATOR, THE KID WILL HAVE LUNG CANCER BY THE TIME IT'S FIVE!



LOOK, I JUST NEED FOR YOU TO COMMIT TO THE REST OF OUR PRENATAL CLASSES OR ELSE I'M ASKING SOMEONE ELSE TO BE MY PRIMARY SUPPORT.



WHAT? WHO?!



I DON'T KNOW! SPARROW OR SOMEONE FROM OUR BABY GROUP. JESUS, MAYBE I'LL ASK THE PAPER GIRL! I SEE MORE OF HER LATELY THAN I DO OF YOU. AND AT LEAST SHE'S DEPENDABLE! SOB!



WAIL!



AW, TONI! I'M YOUR SUPPORT! I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND. FROM NOW ON I WILL BE, BABY. I GUESS I'VE BEEN KIND OF AN ASSHOLE.



A BIG ASSHOLE. -SNIFF-



YEAH, OKAY. A BIG, ROYAL ASSHOLE. C'MON, OR WE'LL MISS THE DANG CLASS.



MEANWHILE, MO IS PAYING A CALL OVER AT LOIS, GINGER, & SPARROW'S PLACE.



Y'KNOW, I THINK THEA IS ATTRACTED TO ME, TOO. I JUST SENSE THAT KIND OF ENERGY FROM HER.



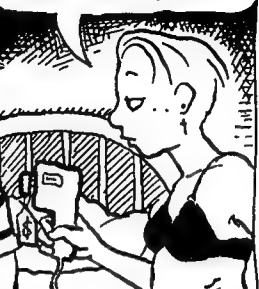
MO, GIVE IT UP. SHE'S MARRIED. IF YOU WANNA GET LAID, COME WITH ME TO THE LOVE TUNNEL TONIGHT. IT'S MUCH SIMPLER.



WELL, CALL ME FUSSY, BUT I PREFER HAVING SEX IN A PLACE WHERE MY SHOES DON'T STICK TO THE FLOOR.



HEY, WANT A VIBRATOR? AN EX WHO WORKS AT THE PLEASURE PIT GAVE ME THIS, BUT I ALREADY HAVE ONE LIKE IT.



UH... YEAH, SURE. I COULD REALLY USE IT ON MY NECK.



HEY, LOIS. REMEMBER I WAS GONNA BORROW YOUR CAR? MALIKA'S FLIGHT GETS IN AT 7:10.



LIVE IT UP.



YEAH! SHE'S GONNA STAY FOR A WHOLE MONTH THIS TIME. FOR ONCE, LOIS WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE GETTING ANY ACTION AROUND HERE.



DING DONG



HI.



HI. I'M JUNE. IS SPARROW READY?



nocturne for Diverse instruments

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IS IT IN THE STARS? OR JUST SOMETHING IN THE WATER? WHATEVER,... ON THIS NIGHT OUR LUSTY LASSES' FANCIES TURN TO ACTS OF LOVE!

MO'S CRUSH ON HER CO-WORKER REACHES A TURBO-CHARGED PITCH.



TONI'S HOT AND BOTHERED.



CLARICE! WAKE UP! I CAN'T GET COMFORTABLE!



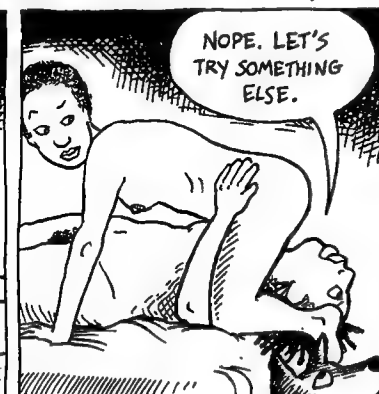
JEEZ, TONI. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?



I WONDER WHY THEY DIDN'T DEMONSTRATE THIS POSITION IN THE BARCLOUNGER SHOWROOM?

MMN NNNH.

DOWN THE BLOCK, GINGER & MALIKA ARE LIVE AND IN-PERSON,...



PERFECT! NOW JUST DON'T MOVE YOUR HEAD OR I CAN'T SEE, OKAY?

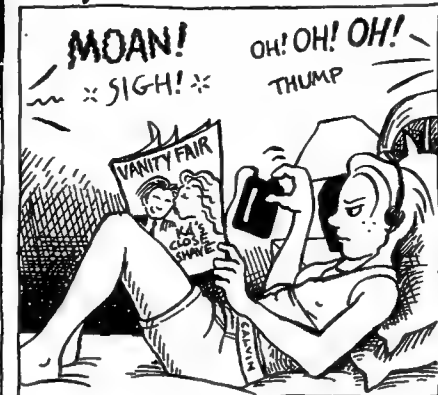
WHIRRRRR

... SPARROW GETS BACK IN THE SADDLE...



AHH, WHO CARES WHAT A BUNCH OF PRE-HISTORIC PATRIARCHS THINKS, ANYWAY.

... AND LOIS ADJUSTS HER VOLUME.



MOAN! SIGH!

OH! OH! OH! THUMP

Crushed

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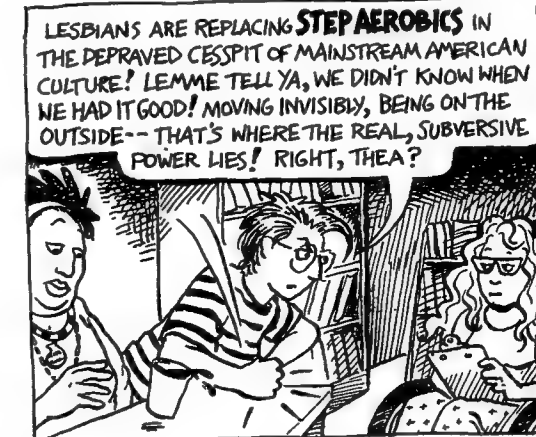
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OH, GIMME A BREAK. ISN'T OUR FIFTEEN MINUTES UP YET?

WHATSA MATTER, MO? CAN'T HANDLE THE SPOTLIGHT?

I JUST DON'T TRUST IT. I MEAN, WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT'S SO REVOLUTIONARY ABOUT NEWSWEEK TELLING US WHAT WE DO IN BED?



LESBIANS ARE REPLACING STEP AEROBICS IN THE DEPRAVED CESSPIT OF MAINSTREAM AMERICAN CULTURE? LEMME TELL YA, WE DIDN'T KNOW WHEN WE HAD IT GOOD! MOVING INVISIBLY, BEING ON THE OUTSIDE-- THAT'S WHERE THE REAL, SUBVERSIVE POWER LIES! RIGHT, THEA?



NO WAY. SUBVERSIVE POWER IS LESBIANS IN BANANA REPUBLIC ADS.



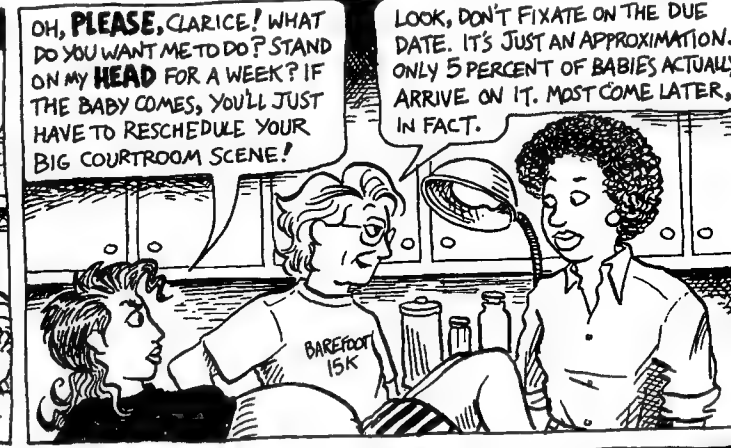
Y'KNOW, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT! SHATTERING THE MYTH THAT LESBIANS AREN'T REAL PEOPLE IS OUR SINGLE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOL IN COUNTERING THE RAMPANT HOMOPHOBIA AND MISOGYNY IN SOCIETY TODAY.

MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN AT NATUREBORN...



39 CENTIMETERS, 39 WEEKS! BABY'S COMING ALONG BEAUTIFULLY!

SO NEXT MONDAY IS STILL THE DUE DATE? ANY WAY TO PUSH IT BACK A FEW DAYS?



OH, PLEASE, CLARICE! WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? STAND ON MY HEAD FOR A WEEK? IF THE BABY COMES, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO RESCHEDULE YOUR BIG COURTROOM SCENE!

LOOK, DON'T FIXATE ON THE DUE DATE. IT'S JUST AN APPROXIMATION. ONLY 5 PERCENT OF BABIES ACTUALLY ARRIVE ON IT. MOST COME LATER, IN FACT.



GREAT! HOW MUCH LATER? TWO DAYS? THREE?

LET ME GIVE YOU A FRIENDLY TIP, CLARICE. DON'T GET TOO HUNG UP ON KEEPING A TIGHT SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT, SAY, EIGHTEEN YEARS OR SO.



JEEZ, MO CHANGED HER POSITION SO FAST ON LESBIAN VISIBILITY OUT THERE, I THOUGHT SHE'D GET WHIP-LASH. SHE HAS IT BAD FOR YOU, THEA.



YEAH, I KNOW. SHE REMINDS ME OF REX WHEN HE WAS A PUPPY. IT'S KIND OF CUTE ISN'T IT?

the Big Day

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Monday Morning...

ARE YOU SURE? MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL THE MIDWIFE! MAYBE I SHOULD STAY HOME!

CLARICE, IT WAS JUST ONE CONTRACTION TWO HOURS AGO! I'M NOT IN LABOR! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU GETTING COLD FEET ABOUT GOING TO COURT TODAY?

GOD, BABE! I'M SO NERVOUS! D'YOU THINK I CAN DO IT?

YEAH. I DO.

OKAY, THEN. HERE I GO. AFTER ALL, I'M THE BREADWINNER NOW. GOTTA BRING HOME THE BACON. ANOTHER MOUTH TO FEED. FAMILY TO SUPPORT. ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

I'M FINE! I'LL CALL YOU IF ANYTHING HAPPENS. NOW GET OUT OF HERE! I HAVE A MILLION THINGS TO DO TO GET READY.

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.

KISS

MMM. BYE.

CLIK!

WHOA!

THAT AFTERNOON AT THE CO-OP...

...98 CENTS A POUND...

MO! HI! WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?

HI, TONI! I'M JUST RUNNING ERRANDS ON MY DAY OFF. WOW, YOU ARE REALLY BIG! YOU LOOK READY TO BLOW!

OH, JEEZ! I'M SORRY! WHAT A STUPID THING TO SAY... I GUESS YOU'RE PROBABLY REALLY SICK OF COMMENTS LIKE THAT, HUH? HOW INSENSITIVE OF ME TO...

MO?

CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR?

SURE, ANYTHING! WANT ME TO CARRY THIS STUFF TO YOUR CAR?

YEAH. AND THEN I'D LIKE YOU TO DRIVE ME HOME. I THINK I'M IN LABOR.

COOL.

HOLY SHIT! SHOULDN'T WE CALL AN AMBULANCE OR SOMETHING?

NAH. THAT'S JUST ON TV. THE BABY'S NOT COMING FOR A LONG LONG TIME. JUST RELAX, AND DRIVE CAREFULLY.

SQUEAL!

flesh & blood



AFTER A HAIR-RAISING CROSS-TOWN JOURNEY, MO GETS TONI HOME SAFELY.

BE CAREFUL! DON'T STRAIN ANYTHING!

TAKE IT EASY, TONI!

MO, TRUST ME. THE BABY'S NOT GONNA DROP OUT ON THE DOORMAT. GO GET THE GROCERIES.

ABSOLUTELY, TONI! SAY THE WORD, I'LL DO ANYTHING!

THEN CHILL OUT. YOU'RE DRIVING ME NUTS.

INSIDE...

GOD, THIS IS SO EXCITING! WHAT DO WE DO NEXT? BOIL WATER?

MO, DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP?

